

During his service to the 105th and 106th Congresses, General Hester has been the liaison to the Air Force on a variety of readiness issues and most recently, ALLIED FORCE operations in Kosovo. His clear, concise, and timely information was instrumental in supporting our deliberations of National Security matters. He was a crucial voice for the Air Force in representing its many programs on the Hill. General Hester's leadership, professional abilities and expertise enabled him to foster excellent working relationships that benefitted both the Air Force and the Senate. Throughout the time I have known Paul, I have been impressed with his skill in working with the Congress to address Air Force priorities.

We were all pleased to see that Paul was recently nominated by the President for his third star, which will be pinned on by the Air Force Chief of Staff this Friday. I offer my congratulations to him, to his wife Lynda, and three children Leslie, Doug and Shelby. The Congress and the country applaud the selfless commitment his family has made to the Nation in supporting his military career.

I know I speak for all my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation to General Hester. He is a credit to both the Air Force and our great Nation. We wish our friend the best of luck and are confident of his continued success in his new command.

A REFLECTION ON JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, of the half-dozen great journalists who wrote of the Kennedy era, as we think of that Presidency, none was closer to those involved, where they had come from, who they were, who they wished to be than Martin F. Nolan of the Boston Globe. He has done so once again, in a moving reflection of the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife and her sister, entitled "Life Goes on, but it'll Never be the Same."

I ask unanimous consent that his reflections be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Boston Globe]

LIFE GOES ON, BUT IT'LL NEVER BE THE SAME
(By Martin F. Nolan)

When Sander Vanocur, the former NBC correspondent, first heard the news, he recalled what John O'Hara, the Irish-American novelist, said on a hot July day in 1937. "They tell me that George Gershwin is suddenly dead at 38. That's what they tell me, but I don't have to believe it if I don't want to."

The composer and songwriter died of a brain tumor, a celebrity death which, like many, caused shock, disbelief, and grief among thousands, even millions, who had never met him.

The death of John F. Kennedy Jr. is different because of Americans' attitude about

history. However imperfectly, they knew that the young man who perished with his wife and sister-in-law while approaching Martha's Vineyard was "a part of history."

The prayers, the sadness, the flowers in TriBeCa all flow to a clan whose rise to glory began on the margins of American society, an underdog dynasty. John F. Kennedy Jr. was born 17 days after his father became the first Roman Catholic president amid the fears of millions that the White House would be an outpost of the Vatican. Friday, as his life is celebrated at a Mass at St. Thomas More Church in New York City, anti-Catholicism has almost vanished in America.

The Kennedy saga covers most of the century. John F. "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1894. One of his grandsons, John, became president; two more, Edward and Robert, became senators; and two of his great-grandsons, Joseph and Patrick, also have served in the House. A half-dozen Frelinghuysens from New Jersey have served in Congress, but only four from another Dutch dynasty, the Roosevelts. The grandchildren of Franklin Delano Roosevelt have known little political fame.

The future has always been Kennedy country and the greatest Kennedy success could lie among its women. Caroline Kennedy Schloseberg has been a key decision maker on many matters, including her father's library. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, the lieutenant governor of Maryland, may possess as much charm and savvy as her father, Robert, her uncles and cousins, and even her grandfather.

The much-photographed Kennedys have been reviled and revered. In a society anxious about "family values," theirs has been on exuberant display for four decades, along with those of the Bouviers, Shakels, Bennetts, Smiths, Lawfords, and Shrivvers. (A large family means many in-laws.)

In a nation of small families, size matters. When Edward Kennedy barely escaped death in the crash of a small plane in 1964, his brother Robert visited him and remarked in that ruefully wry Kennedyesque way, "I guess the reason my mother and father had so many children was that some of them would survive."

Edward Kennedy, the ninth of nine, is, at 67, the sole surviving son, the patriarch, and an all-too-accomplished eulogist. The Kennedys' famous fatalism was once expressed by President Kennedy's citation of a French fisherman's prayer: "Oh God, thy sea is so great and my boat is so small." Thursday's burial was private and at sea off Cape Cod, that slip of land of which Henry David Thoreau said in 1865: "A man may stand there and put all America behind him."

The America John F. Kennedy Jr. leaves behind is one in which the median age is younger than his at his death. The vast majority of his fellow citizens have no contemporary memory of his father's violent death in 1963 nor that of his uncle in 1968. The grief of the Kennedys has been vivid in the nation's tribal memory as only a photograph or a video image, but no less vivid for being so.

Stanley Tretick, who died last week at 77, was a photographer for Look magazine. One of his most famous pictures was of the President Kennedy's young son climbing through a desk in the Oval Office. "The Kennedys are great, but you have to do things their way," Tretick once said.

The Kennedys stage-managed their own public image in the days before 24-hour cable channels and the vast hordes of paparazzi that their fame and glamour enticed. The

Hyannis Port family compound this week has been a logo for media fascination with one family's grief.

The old Latin liturgy once included an Augustinian admonition, "Vita mutatur non tollitur"—"Life is changed not taken away." That belief sustains those of faith, in addition, there's always the Irish wake tradition of stories and memories, happy and sad.

Arthur N. Schlessinger Jr. wrote in "A Thousand Days" of how a young assistant secretary of labor, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, reacted to President Kennedy's death. "I don't think there's any point in being Irish if you don't know that the world is going to break your heart eventually. I guess that we thought we had a little more time," Moynihan said. "Mary McGrory said to me that we'll never laugh again. And I said, 'Heavens, Mary. We'll laugh again. It's just that we'll never be young again.'"

Across America and the world, many people feel a lot less young than they did a week ago.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, July 23, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,636,001,455,884.82 (Five trillion, six hundred thirty-six billion, one million, four hundred fifty-five thousand, eight hundred eighty-four dollars and eighty-two cents).

One year ago, July 23, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,537,084,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty-seven billion, eighty-four million).

Fifteen years ago, July 23, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,534,379,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred thirty-four billion, three hundred seventy-nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, July 23, 1974, the Federal debt stood at \$474,854,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-four billion, eight hundred fifty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,161,147,455,884.82 (Five trillion, one hundred sixty-one billion, one hundred forty-seven million, four hundred fifty-five thousand, eight hundred eighty-four dollars and eighty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

FUNDING FOR EMBASSY SECURITY

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed S. 1217, the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill. I want to take a minute now to express my serious concerns about the low level of funding for embassy security contained in the bill.

Just about one year ago, two United States embassies in East Africa were destroyed by terrorist bombs, killing hundreds of people and injuring thousands. The bombings underscored the great vulnerability of our diplomatic missions. In response, Congress promptly provided \$1.4 billion in emergency funding to rebuild the two embassies and to take other urgent steps to bolster security at overseas missions.